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Message Text

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43/14
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INRE-00

ERDE-00 /026 W
---------- 091730
R 051427Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9553
INFO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1732

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, US, US
SUBJECT: USA INSTITUTE ON SALT, PNE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: 75 MOSCOW 2891, 75 MOSCOW 3212, 75 MOSCOW 7008

1. SUMMARY. USA INSTITUTE DEPUTY DIRECTOR ZHURKIN HAS TOLD THE FRG AMBASSADOR HERE (SAHM) THAT THE SOVIET UNION MAY BE WILLING TO LOWER THE VLADIVOSTOK CEILINGS BY 10-30 PERCENT IN POST-SALT II NEGOTIATIONS, THUS REVIVING SPECULATION WE HEARD EARLIER FROM SOME OF ZHURKIN'S STAFFERS. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING QUADRIPARTITE MEETING FEBRUARY 3 SAHM SAID THAT ZHURKIN HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE SOVIET UNION MIGHT BE READY FOR A CUT OF 10-30 PERCENT IN THE VLADIVOSTOK CEILINGS IN FOLLOW-ON NEGOTIATIONS AFTER SIGNATURE OF SALT-II. HE SAID AN ESSENTIAL CONDITION WOULD BE THAT BOTH SIDES CONTINUE TO RELY SOLELY ON NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS FOR VERIFICATION, ADDING THAT STORIES IN THE WEST THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS USING LASER BEAMS TO BLIND SATELLITES IS COMPLETELY FALSE. HE ALSO REMARKED THAT THE SOVIET UNION DID NOT CONTEMPLATE THE USE OF ON-SITE OBSERVERS "EXCEPT IN A PNE CONTEXT".

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3. COMMENT. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH US IN 1975 (REFTELS),

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LOWER RANKING USA INSTITUTE STAFFERS ALSO RAISED IDEA OF
10 TO 30 PERCENT CUTS IN STRATEGIC WEAPON CEILINGS, BUT
A MORE SENIOR STAFFER (MIL'SHTEYN) LATER IMPLIED THAT CUTS
OF THIS MAGNITUDE ARE UNLIKELY. ZHURKIN'S REITERATION OF
THESE EARLIER FIGURES INDICATE THAT CUTS OF UP TO 30 PERCENT
HAVE BEEN DEEMED CONCEIVABLE BY THE USA INSTITUTE.

4. ZHURKIN'S STATEMENT THAT ON-SITE INSPECTION WOULD BE ALLOWED
FOR PNE VERIFICATION IS THE FIRST CONFIRMATION WE HAVE HEARD
OUTSIDE THE PNE NEGOTIATIONS THEMSELVES THAT THE SOVIET UNION
IS RECONCILED TO THE NEED FOR SUCH VERIFICATION PROCEDURES.
IT IS ALSO AN INTERESTING INDICATION OF ZHURKIN'S ACCESS TO
WHAT PRESUMABLY IS FAIRLY TIGHTLY HELD INFORMATION ON ONGOING
NEGOTIATIONS. END COMMENT.
STOESSEL

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